

ANARCHY'S RULE IN KENTUCKY

ARMED MOBS IN POSSESSION OF PART OF THE STATE.

Full Story of the Attempt of the United Mine Workers to Gain Control of the Hopkins County Field—Proclamations of the State—Then Assassination, Dynamiting and Other Forms of Violence Resorted To—A Reign of Terror for Law-Abiding People in the District—The Mines Not Affected, Though—Their Production Increasing—Non-Union Miners Refuse to Be Coerced.

LEXINGTON, Ky., Nov. 23.—What is popularly known as anarchy, the anarchy of the Herr Most-Emma Goldman type which now and then inspires some one to go off and kill a President or a King is vastly different from the sort which exists in this coal-mining district of western Kentucky.

The ordinary Emma Goldman anarchy is merely sporadic. The kind we have on tap here is chronic, a continuous performance of murder, dynamiting and free and unlimited rioting.

It has been going on as a recognized feature of life in Hopkins county for the better part of a year. It has produced a state of affairs, so far as the great industry of the county is concerned, as might be expected to exist in the cave-dwelling epoch of the development of man. It is a case in which people for their personal protection rely upon their individual alertness and skill in the use of weapons.

So far as the law's maintaining the peace and the security of men going about their ordinary vocations is concerned, that vent by the board long ago. Bands of armed anarchists, murderers and dynamiters roam at their own sweet will about the county, pitching their tents like strolling troupes of red Indians wherever it suits them best and there setting up their lawless tyranny.

Up to the present time what efforts have been made by the county and State authorities to put an end to this condition of affairs have been puny. So far as the county is concerned, the efforts have been confined to a recognition of these preposterous conditions as the permanent social organization of Hopkins county.

It is true that within the last few days there have been some indications that the government at Frankfort has some remote suspicion that a change in the order of things here might perhaps be an improvement. There is talk of sending some of the militia here.

If this talk results in action and the State militia are sent it remains to be seen whether their presence will be a blessing or the reverse. They were here a few weeks ago and the decent people of the county are not even yet through praying for heaven to deliver them from such another visitation.

With the exception of a few instances, in which guards were put around property, the mission of the militia seems to have been to encourage the armed ruffians who are terrorizing the county in the conviction that they are a much abused body of pliant citizens. Details of soldiers escorted their organizers and speakers from place to place and distributed the handbills which announced where and when the speakers would appear. The doctrine that the managers of industrial enterprises who did not turn over the administration of their affairs to the labor organizations which this invading army of rioters represents, should be forced out of commercial existence, and Hopkins county left to return to this condition in which the original ruffians were.

Others high in command of the militia, after giving in some instances as much as forty-eight hours' notice of their coming, invited the camps of the invaders. Naturally after this warning they found no weapons in sight.

On the other hand they discovered only quiet and orderly groups of men piously thumbing Bibles and hymn books. They heard and apparently believed the stories told by leaders of the going of these camps only poor industrious citizens forced from their homes by the tyranny of capital to live in tents like wild men on the hills.

They heard and apparently believed also that these unfortunate were deprived of the inalienable rights of free speech—that they were not permitted to go among their neighborly brethren, who in a blind way preferred to live by lying instead of becoming tramps and vagabonds, were not permitted to go among them and explain to them their real plight.

The militia officers were relieved at this melancholy state of affairs. They enthusiastically declared that the men in the camps should have the right to free speech if they took the entire militia force of Kentucky to give it to them.

Then followed the spectacle above mentioned of uniformed militiamen, armed as body guards to later agitators going about from one end of the county to the other trying to talk to hundreds and thousands of contented citizens who did not want to hear from them and would not listen to them. In the meantime in other parts of the county the homes of law-abiding citizens were being dynamited and the streets were being closed to the highway and the streets were being closed to the highway and the streets were being closed to the highway.

Then there came the absurd farce of dynamiting. Adjutant-General Murray fired the mines in the charge to give up their arms and the militia were ordered to the mine operators that managed to escape the National Guard would furnish them with arms and ammunition.

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is always an imported article. It is wholly and entirely an imported article. It is Hopkins county.

THE DISTURBANCE OF THE peace here during the past eighteen months comes from abroad, and the armed bands of vagabonds and loafers who are incessantly squatting in camps where they may harass decent people are invaders pure and simple. They were collected together from Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, other mining counties of Kentucky, and from Heaven knows where else besides, and sent here by the United Mine Workers of America as an invading foreign army, equipped with modern weapons of war, to force at the rifle muzzle the workmen employed in the mines of this district either to abandon the employment by which they earn their daily bread or else join the organization of which these bands are the representatives.

The whole movement is the result of a deliberate conspiracy formed on April 18, 1900, and used on contracts duly signed, on the one hand by authorized representatives of the United Mine Workers of America and on the other by authorized representatives of mining interests in other parts of the State which are themselves subject to the tyranny of the Mine Workers' union. The object of the conspiracy was to have forced into the same boat with them the independent operators of this county who have had the courage thus far to control their own property, instead of turning it over to the management of Mr. Mitchell and his advisory board of worthies.

The technical legal conspiracy involved in this outrage is so complicated and so clearly defined that there is little doubt that if the matter were adjudicated on its legal merits the parties thereto would be ordered to force at the rifle muzzle the workmen employed in the mines of this district either to abandon the employment by which they earn their daily bread or else join the organization of which these bands are the representatives.

This far no criminal act has been instituted and it is not probable that there will be any steps in that direction. The St. Bernard Company, which is by far the heaviest coal producer in the county, brought suit last year against the mine operators in question and was the loser. The St. Bernard Company, which is by far the heaviest coal producer in the county, brought suit last year against the mine operators in question and was the loser.

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old story of the labor union methods of persuading men to believe that they are oppressed and oppressed slaves and that the agitators themselves are Moses come to lead them out of the wilderness into the liberty, light and affluence which they only can find under the protecting wings of the United Mine Workers of America. Headquarters were established at Central City and at Madisonville, where, with James D. Wood as their head, groups of nice, fat, well-fed and well-dressed men went out to make converts.

FEW RECRUITS FOR THE UNION. The success of these apostles was practically nil. In a body of 2,000 men, which was the number of miners employed in Hopkins county, there necessarily are more or less ne'er-do-wells and idlers who are on the look-out for nothing better than an excuse to refrain from work. It was from this human slack, the mere refuse of the mine-working population that the union drew most of its recruits.

And yet even the number of these was surprisingly small. Out of the 2,000 miners in Hopkins county it is probably a conservative statement to say that not more than 250 have been recruited or driven by intimidation from their work since the mine workers' union began its campaign of violence eight months ago.

Among these 250 there are a few, but a very few, whom their employers regretted to see leave. The overwhelming majority were simply a good risk-taking bunch, left vacant by those desertions were instantly filled and could again be filled a dozen times over in forty-eight hours, both they and the seven mines of the district.

As a complete demonstration of the fact that the United Mine Workers' war, both of persuasion and violence against the independent operators of this county, is a complete failure, it is only necessary to consider what the output of the mines so attacked has been during the time since the strike began.

With the exception of eight days during which the Beltsco mine at Madisonville was stopped, its approach being seized by the miners, the output of the district has not been materially affected. As a complete demonstration of the fact that the United Mine Workers' war, both of persuasion and violence against the independent operators of this county, is a complete failure, it is only necessary to consider what the output of the mines so attacked has been during the time since the strike began.

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"The Oak Hill mine will not do a stroke of work to-day." The Oak Hill mine worked with not a man missing from its full force, and continued to work right along in the same manner.

On Dec. 6 Mr. Wood said: "The Oak Hill and Morton Gap mines have joined the union and will cease all work today." That day the Oak Hill miners and the Morton Gap miners, as well as all the others in Hopkins county, worked with their full force, as they have continued to do from that day to this.

Dec. 14 closed the first two weeks of Mr. Mitchell's "strike" in his great war to win the prize offered by competitive operators in the State for the paralysis of the Hopkins county coal industry, and to win for his organization the strategic key position in his struggle to control the State. During those two weeks the Hopkins county coal mines produced nearly 100,000 tons of coal, more than they did in the two weeks immediately preceding the "strike."

ASSASSINATION TRIED. This was not precisely encouraging to Mr. Mitchell and his board of worthies. Mr. Wood's fair tale factory was sadly handicapped by the presentation of these cold and convincing figures. It was evident to even the most stupid of the "Workers' organization" that the stories with which they had been fed to the effect that the miners of Hopkins had yielded to Mr. Wood's persuasions and gone over practically in a body to the union were lies pure and simple.

It was also evident to Mr. Mitchell's board of worthies that a few days later the district that something besides moral suasion and wholesale falsification must be relied upon if the flow of money from other mining districts in Kentucky and elsewhere was to be kept up. There had been prior to this sporadic cases of assault and intimidation. From that time on, however, the violence became more and more systematic and characteristic of the movement.

On Dec. 29 Robert Holloman was shot and seriously wounded from ambush by a member of the United Mine Workers of America. A few weeks later, in January of this year, a deputy sheriff and three posse men were killed by a party of non-union miners. A few weeks later, in January of this year, a deputy sheriff and three posse men were killed by a party of non-union miners.

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already here in the county to greater activity. A few days after a number of non-union men who were riding in wagons with women and children were fired upon while going to the Providence mines to get work. One of the assailants was captured, and that same night, as the officers were taking their prisoner to Dixon, they, too, were fired at from ambush.

Two nights later a shot was fired into the home of Abe Parker, an employee of the St. Bernard Coal Company at Morton Gap, the bullet striking his head.

A few days later Robert Gordon of Earlington was chased away from a house near the Greenville station by a mob of non-union men. He was brutally beaten. Two days after that four non-union men on their way to St. Charles were set upon by a gang of union miners, led by Andy Tucker, an organizer for the United Mine Workers.

Closely following on the heels of this outrage, a boarding house occupied by the non-union men at Madisonville was raided at night with bullets. Soon a non-union boarding house at the Monarch mines was dynamited at night, but no one was seriously injured.

A few days later an attempt was made to assassinate W. A. Hall, Secretary of the Oak Hill Coal Company, as he was walking home at 11 o'clock at night from Nortonville. He was fired at from ambush and one bullet went through his hat.

At the same night there was a vicious attack between 12 and 1 o'clock, on a non-union boarding house at the Monarch mines. Something like 100 shots were fired, and the miners were driven off. A few days later the house of a colored preacher, named J. H. Hightower, was dynamited at night, but no one injured. Hightower was in bed at the time, and the dynamite failed to explode. The next night an attack was made on the Monarch mines and the assailants were driven off.

On the same night a party of Earlington men returning from a Madisonville lodge were fired at from ambush. Through all of the month of July this sort of thing was kept up, hardly a night passing without some outrage. On the night of Aug. 5, about 2:15 A. M., a large mob of non-union miners, led by Andy Tucker, broke into the residence of J. A. Bailey of Madisonville, opened fire upon the house, apparently directing their aim at a window of a room in which an electric light was burning and in which Mr. Bailey's seven-year-old daughter was sleeping. Several bullets passed through the window and struck the bed of the child. Mr. Bailey, the manager of the Beltsco mine at Madisonville, and his wife were in the room at the time. Mr. Bailey, however, had seen the muzzle of a rifle peering out of the bushes along the track, plainly showing that there was a large force in ambush. He called out to the men and induced them to go to the mine as he himself had the command to return back up the track where they had left their companions.

PROTECTION DEMANDED. When he arrived there a large number of miners on their way to work were collected. In squads of from ten to a dozen he led them all down the track until all had been stopped and prevented from going to the mine as he himself and his first detachment had been.

The other representatives of the company whom he had placed at the other end of the track to the mine were instructed to pursue the same course, and, if all the men were turned back, to march them in a body to the mine. Mr. Bailey himself with his own detachment arrived at the Court House, all of his 250 or more men who worked in the mine were assembled in the Court House.

House. Judge Hall was there and Mr. Bailey formally asked him for protection while he remained in the county. He was told that he had been driven by an armed gang of outlaws. Judge Hall said that it would be impossible for him to supply the necessary guards and he advised Mr. Bailey to send the men to their homes, promising to furnish them protection when they went to the mine on the following morning.

When he was asked if he would furnish protection to the men when they were in the mines to prevent them from being shot and killed like so many rats in a hole, he was unable to give any satisfactory assurance. And thus it was that for ten days, without any effort on the part of the county officials to scatter the lawless gang which was openly and insolently overriding the law, the Beltsco mine was kept closed and the miners were kept from their work.

It is in the nature of the case that the St. Bernard Company, which is by far the heaviest coal producer in the county, brought suit last year against the mine operators in question and was the loser. The St. Bernard Company, which is by far the heaviest coal producer in the county, brought suit last year against the mine operators in question and was the loser.

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